



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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00-258

Office of the President

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February 19, 2001

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OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
HAROLD FURCHTGOFF-ROTH

Chairman Michael Powell
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Re: FCC ET Docket 00-258

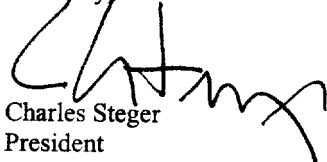
Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

We at Virginia Tech are very concerned with the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on 3G that was released January 5, 2001. We are disturbed to learn that ITFS spectrum is in jeopardy of being reallocated in part or in whole in favor of 3G wireless.

The FCC only recently enacted rule changes to expand the educational power of ITFS and enable the spectrum to be used for two-way broadband connectivity that could support high speed Internet access, videoconferencing, and other interactive applications. The educational community is moving quickly to make use of the new capabilities to provide needed connectivity to a broader and more diverse group of students. This is especially important for state and land grant universities, such as Virginia Tech. We recognize that broadband connectivity is critical for distance and online learning, and it is needed to reach the many non-traditional types of students that we serve in our rural region.

If the Commission reallocates any part of the ITFS spectrum for 3G mobile device services, the capacity, usefulness and value of ITFS would be significantly diminished. Therefore, Virginia Tech believes the ITFS spectrum should be retained in its entirety for educational use. We ask that you preserve the ITFS spectrum as is, and protect this vital educational resource.

Sincerely,


Charles Steger
President

Cc: Mr. Ralph Byers, Director of Governmental Relations, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Mr. Earving L. Blythe, Vice President, Information Systems, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Ms. Jeri Semer, Executive Director, ACUTA
Dr. Peter Gossman, Chairman, National ITFS Association

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Washington, DC 20554

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